

Illicefolia oreton, that after diligent inquiry of the fishermen, I find does not extend into the chain of islands lying to the north and south of Catalina.

It grows directly from the coast far up into the mountains of the interior ^{to an elevation of 2000 feet} haunting mostly the damp shady cañons - and confined (tho. very abundant) to the N. West end of the Island.

This famous evergreen is from 16 to 24 feet in height. has a roughish brown bark (and the rest I quote)

"matures into luscious purple"

"cherries" ^(the size of a small plum) about the 1st of September.

The tree is so graceful and ornamental - that it would be a most desirable addition to our botanic gardens and I only regret not being prepared to pack and ship young plants to Cambridge, as the ground was covered in some places

August 13th 1881

No 32 Wilmington Street
San Angeles Cal.

To Mr Asa Gray

my dear Sir

You will be amazed I hope with a genuine amazement, and not at my presumption in claiming for your notice a number of new plants (mailed concurrently with this) heretofore undescribed, certainly so inas far as "the Botany" goes. The limited size of my herbarium (less than 700 Cal species) does not warrant the assumption that every new thing I find is necessarily new to science and collecting only for my own herbarium and not professionally. I do not of course take in a portfolio full of everything I see which accounts for the limited supply of specimens I send you.

Further the difficulties of getting to - and when there, of collecting on these rocky "continents" ~~is~~ great and the expense not inconsiderable a matter of no small moment to my slender purse and limited time.

But if two days on Catalina have been as pregnant with good results as I believe them to have been, I feel that if I can ever secure a two weeks exploration of these islands, I can attain results to be proud of.

As I wrote to you I can hardly understand how all these things could have escaped men like Gambel, Wallace, Dall and Mr Palmer - or their observations been so limited unless they were even worse pushed for time than myself - To say I had to work like a mule to accomplish what I did, is not to overstate the matter, but if what I

send you should prove to be acquisitions to our beloved science and of value to our guild - I shall feel I have not labored in vain.

No 1 - *Phacelia "cucullata"*
in herb. Lyon.

For suggestion of the name (which I consider a good one), am indebted to Rev. Merwin as the striking and unique calyx lobes, certainly claim attention -

Made no extensive collection, merely taking it in "rough shoes" as a very glandular form of *P. tanacetifolia* - but a glance at the capsule, threw it far from that. Not in truth, can I succeed in "sectionizing" it anywhere. Hab. inclined to hug the dry cliffs overhanging the sea and not extending inland.

No 2. *Prunus Catalinae* ?
in herb. Lyon

A beautiful evergreen tree of the

3000 feet. Once there, or within a mile of it, it was the most conspicuous feature in the landscape. The oriflame or white plume of Navarre, or even Blaine could not be more noticeable; and ever after, on the keen look out for it, am fairly well assured that it is the only group of its kind certainly on the N. W. end of the Island. The "clump consisted of 5 handsome evergreens? 12 to 14 feet in height with perfect umbrella like tops, lopped off from every terminal shoot with one of the magnificent corymbs I send you. To say that I had to select the smallest is nearly true, for my portfolio would by no means do justice to the finest specimens.

The plant is tree like branching at from 6 to 8 feet from the ground

with caudex 7 or 8 ins in diameter and covered with a very light cinnamon colored bark - and in beauty of form and flower far surpasses the Prunus.

No 4 - Eritrichium? possibly Tetranum - but I see many differences - too late in season to get in good flower and not abundant at best.

No 5. Gilia atractylodes var longiflora? in herb. Lyon Has the habit (the more glandular of atractylodes, but has the long exserted corolla of micrantha. The corolla was dark blue or purplish - anyway the thing puzzles me hence I send it along. N. B. The only Gilia I found upon the island.

No 6. Hemizonia ~~sp.~~ pubescens? Am doubtful of the identity of this furthermore the plant.

is hardly suffrutescent, at least -
no more than your specimen shows
as you have it within an inch
or so of the ground. It is however
divergently branching from the base.
thus  the erect and a span to
a foot high - Only found on
South West coast, but there in
great abundance, forming with
H. fasciculata the principal flora
of that sterile and uninviting region.

No 7 - *Proserpinaca Californica* -
being in good fruit, I throw
in a bit for good luck.

No 8 and last I don't put in
(having but one tiny scap, and am
to mean to part with that)
but merely tell you about.

Beyond a ? it is *Hosackia*
micrantha and collecting it
only confirms the note in Bot.
Cal. I p. 138.

(7)

with a fine growth of the young
trees from 2 to 8 inches high.

No 3 - Is "*Quin pabr*" in
vert. Lym.

To me the great unknown - all
I can say (seeing it only in flower,
that it appears to be of Rosaceae
tho' Bro' Navin leans towards.

Gayifragaceae but that is as
far as either of us can get.
My own theory is that it may
turn out to be a representative
of the N. W. or S. American
Coasts that has found a congenial
lodgement through the instrumentality
of some migratory bird.

The most untenable hypothesis
is that it got there thro' the agency
of man. My reasons are that
I only discovered one "clump"
and that upon one of the rockiest
and most inaccessible ridges
of the island, and within one
of the highest wind swept points
with an elevation of more than

At last I am through and if
all my "finds" turn out to be
maro nests or in any event,
all I deserve at your hands after
all this literary infliction ought
to be a request to take my plants
with my wig and my letters
to the barbers.

Whenever I can acquire your
happy faculty of saying
multum in parvo you may ex-
pect better treatment at my
hands.

Very respectfully Yours
Wm. S. Lyon.

To save packing I send Prof. Watson.
Some specimens in same p. box.

Yours, are numbered 1 to 7 inclusive.
Nos. 8 to 9 inclusive
W. S. L.